

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE
UNITED STATES RECEIVING OFFICE**

Date	March 17, 2004
International Application No.	
Attorney Docket No.	14.0248-PCT

I. Certification under 37 CFR 1.10 (if applicable)

EV306376481US

Express Mail mailing number

March 17, 2004

Date of Deposit

I hereby certify that the application/correspondence attached hereto is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



Signature of person mailing correspondence

Steven L. Christian

Typed or printed name of person mailing correspondence

II. ☒ New International Application

TITLE

Marine Seismic Survey Method And System

Earliest priority date
(Day/Month/Year)

SCREENING DISCLOSURE INFORMATION: In order to assist in screening the accompanying international application for purposes of determining whether a license for foreign transmittal should and could be granted and for other purposes, the following information is supplied. (Note: check as many boxes as apply):

- A. ☒ The invention disclosed was **not** made in the United States.
- B. ☒ There is no prior U.S. application relating to this invention.
- C. ☐ The following prior U.S. application(s) contain subject matter which is related to the invention disclosed in the attached international application. (NOTE: priority to these applications may or may not be claimed on form PCT/RO/101 (Request) and this listing does not constitute a claim for priority.)

application no.		filed on	
application no.		filed on	

- D. ☐ The present international application contains additional subject matter not found in the prior U.S. application(s) identified in paragraph C. above. The additional subject matter is found on pages and ☐ DOES NOT ALTER ☐ MIGHT BE CONSIDERED TO ALTER the general nature of the invention in a manner which would require the U.S. application to have been made available for inspection by the appropriate defense agencies under 35 U.S.C. 181 and 37 CFR 5.1. See 37 CFR 5.15.

III. ☐ A Response to an Invitation from the RO/US. The following document(s) is (are) enclosed:

- A. ☐ A Request for An Extension of Time to File a Response
- B. ☐ A Power of Attorney (General or Regular)
- C. ☐ Replacement pages:

pages		of the request (PCT/RO/101)	pages		of the figures
pages		of the description	pages		of the abstract
pages		of the claims			

- D. ☐ Submission of Priority Documents

Priority document		Priority document	
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- E. ☐ Fees as specified on attached Fee Calculation sheet form PCT/RO/101 annex

IV. ☐ A Request for Rectification under PCT 91 ☐ A Petition ☐ A Sequence Listing Diskette

V. ☒ Other (please specify):

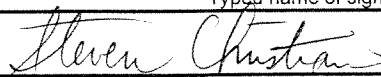
Customer No. 24945

The person
signing this
form is the:

- ☐ Applicant
- ☒ Attorney/Agent (Reg. No.) 38,106
- ☐ Common Representative

Steven L. Christian

Typed name of signer



Signature

PCT

REQUEST

The undersigned requests that the present international application be processed according to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

International Filing Date

Name of receiving Office and "PCT International Application"

Applicant's or agent's file reference
(if desired) (12 characters maximum) 14.0248-PCT

Box No. I TITLE OF INVENTION

MARINE SEISMIC SURVEY METHOD AND SYSTEM

Box No. II APPLICANT

☐ This person is also inventor

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Ltd.
P. O. Box 662
Road Town, Tortola
British Virgin Islands

Telephone No.

Facsimile No.

Teleprinter No.

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State (that is, country) of nationality:

State (that is, country) of residence:

This person is applicant
for the purposes of:

☐ all designated
States

☒ all designated States except
the United States of America

☐ the United States
of America only

☐ the States indicated in
the Supplemental Box

Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)

WELKER, Ken
Sundveien 17 D
Nesoya 1397
Norway

This person is:

☐ applicant only

☒ applicant and inventor

☐ inventor only (If this check-box is
marked, do not fill in below.)

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State (that is, country) of nationality:

USA

State (that is, country) of residence:

Norway

This person is applicant
for the purposes of:

☐ all designated
States

☐ all designated States except
the United States of America

☒ the United States
of America only

☐ the States indicated in
the Supplemental Box

☒ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on a continuation sheet.

Box No. IV AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE; OR ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE

The person identified below is hereby/has been appointed to act on behalf of the applicant(s) before the competent International Authorities as:

☒ agent

☐ common
representative

Name and address: (Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country.)

CHRISTIAN, Steven L.
STREETS & STEELE
13831 Northwest Frwy, Suite 355
Houston, Texas 77040
United States of America

Telephone No.

713-939-9444

Facsimile No.

713-939-9508

Teleprinter No.

Agent's registration No. with the Office

38,106

☐ Address for correspondence: Mark this check-box where no agent or common representative is/has been appointed and the space above is used instead to indicate a special address to which correspondence should be sent.

Continuation of Box No. III FURTHER APPLICANT(S) AND/OR (FURTHER) INVENTOR(S)*If none of the following sub-boxes is used, this sheet should not be included in the request.*

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

TYLER, Peter
30 Dover Street
Canterbury
Kent CT1 3HQ
United Kingdom

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☒ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only *(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)*

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State *(that is, country)* of nationality:

United Kingdom

State *(that is, country)* of residence:

United Kingdom

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States☐ all designated States except the United States of America☒ the United States of America only☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☐ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only *(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)*

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State *(that is, country)* of nationality:State *(that is, country)* of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States☐ all designated States except the United States of America☐ the United States of America only☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☐ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only *(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)*

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State *(that is, country)* of nationality:State *(that is, country)* of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States☐ all designated States except the United States of America☐ the United States of America only☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

Name and address: *(Family name followed by given name; for a legal entity, full official designation. The address must include postal code and name of country. The country of the address indicated in this Box is the applicant's State (that is, country) of residence if no State of residence is indicated below.)*

This person is:

- ☐ applicant only
☐ applicant and inventor
☐ inventor only *(If this check-box is marked, do not fill in below.)*

Applicant's registration No. with the Office

State *(that is, country)* of nationality:State *(that is, country)* of residence:

This person is applicant for the purposes of:

☐ all designated States☐ all designated States except the United States of America☐ the United States of America only☐ the States indicated in the Supplemental Box

☐ Further applicants and/or (further) inventors are indicated on another continuation sheet.

Box No. V DESIGNATIONS

The filing of this request constitutes under Rule 4.9(a), the designation of all Contracting States bound by the PCT on the international filing date, for the grant of every kind of protection available and, where applicable, for the grant of both regional and national patents.

However,

- ☐ DE Germany is **not designated** for any kind of national protection
- ☐ KR Republic of Korea is **not designated** for any kind of national protection
- ☐ RU Russian Federation is **not designated** for any kind of national protection

(The check-boxes above may be used to exclude (irrevocably) the designations concerned in order to avoid the ceasing of the effect, under the national law, of an earlier national application from which priority is claimed. See the Notes to Box No. V as to the consequences of such national law provisions in these and certain other States.)

Box No. VI PRIORITY CLAIM

The priority of the following earlier application(s) is hereby claimed:

Filing date of earlier application (day/month/year)	Number of earlier application	Where earlier application is:		
		national application: country or Member of WTO	regional application:* regional Office	international application: receiving Office
item (1)				
item (2)				
item (3)				

☐ Further priority claims are indicated in the Supplemental Box.

The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the earlier application(s) (only if the earlier application was filed with the Office which for the purposes of this international application is the receiving Office) identified above as:

☐ all items ☐ item (1) ☐ item (2) ☐ item (3) ☐ other, see Supplemental Box

* Where the earlier application is an ARIPO application, indicate at least one country party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property or one Member of the World Trade Organization for which that earlier application was filed (Rule 4.10(b)(ii)):

Box No. VII INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

Choice of International Searching Authority (ISA) (if two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the Authority chosen; the two-letter code may be used):

ISA / EPO

Request to use results of earlier search; reference to that search (if an earlier search has been carried out by or requested from the International Searching Authority):

Date (day/month/year) Number Country (or regional Office)

Box No. VIII DECLARATIONS

The following **declarations** are contained in Boxes Nos. VIII (i) to (v) (mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in the right column the number of each type of declaration):

		Number of declarations
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (i)	Declaration as to the identity of the inventor	:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (ii)	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent	: 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iii)	Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to claim the priority of the earlier application	:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (iv)	Declaration of inventorship (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)	: 2
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII (v)	Declaration as to non-prejudicial disclosures or exceptions to lack of novelty	:

Box No. VIII (ii) DECLARATION: ENTITLEMENT TO APPLY FOR AND BE GRANTED A PATENT

The declaration must conform to the standardized wording provided for in Section 212; see Notes to Boxes Nos. VIII, VIII (i) to (v) (in general) and the specific Notes to Box No. VIII (ii). If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

Declaration as to the applicant's entitlement, as at the international filing date, to apply for and be granted a patent (Rules 4.17(ii) and 51 bis. 1(a)(ii)), in a case where the declaration under Rule 4.17(iv) is not appropriate:

in relation to this international application,

WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Ltd. is entitled to apply for and be granted a patent by virtue of the following:
an assignment from

WELKER, Ken, Sundveien 17 D, Nesoya 1397, Norway

to WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Ltd., dated March 15, 2004.

and

TYLER, Peter, 30 Dover Street, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3HQ, United Kingdom

to WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Ltd., dated March 13, 2004.

This declaration is made for the purposes of all designations, except for the designation of the United States of America.

☐ This declaration is continued on the following sheet, "Continuation of Box No. VIII (ii)".

Box No. VIII (iv) DECLARATION: INVENTORSHIP (only for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America)

The declaration must conform to the following standardized wording provided for in Section 214: see Notes to Boxes Nos. VIII, VIII (i) to (iv) (in general) and the specific Notes to Box No. VIII (iv). If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

**Declaration of inventorship (Rules 4.17(iv) and 51bis.1(a)(iv))
for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America:**

I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole (if only one inventor is listed below) or joint (if more than one inventor is listed below) inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

This declaration is directed to the international application of which it forms a part (if filing declaration with application).

This declaration is directed to international application No. PCT/..... (if furnishing declaration pursuant to Rule 26ter).

I hereby declare that my residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified international application, including the claims of said application. I have identified in the request of said application, in compliance with PCT Rule 4.10, any claim to foreign priority, and I have identified below, under the heading "Prior Applications," by application number, country or Member of the World Trade Organization, day, month and year of filing, any application for a patent or inventor's certificate filed in a country other than the United States of America, including any PCT international application designating at least one country other than the United States of America, having a filing date before that of the application on which foreign priority is claimed.

Prior Applications:

I hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is known by me to be material to patentability as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name: Ken Welker

Residence: Norway

(city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address: Sundveien 17 D

Nesoya 1397

Norway

Citizenship: USA

Inventor's Signature: Keneth Welker

(if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date: 15 March 2004

(of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

Name:

Residence:

(city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address:

Citizenship:

Inventor's Signature:

(if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date:

(of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

☒ This declaration is continued on the following sheet, "Continuation of Box No. VIII (iv)".

Continuation of Box No. VIII (iv) DECLARATION: INVENTORSHIP (only for the purposes of the designation of the USA)
The declaration must conform to the following standardized wording provided for in Section 214; see Notes to Boxes Nos. VIII, VIII (i) to (v) (in general) and the specific Notes to Box No. VIII (iv). If this Box is not used, this sheet should not be included in the request.

**Declaration of inventorship (Rules 4.17(iv) and 51bis.1(a)(iv))
 for the purposes of the designation of the United States of America:**

I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole (if only one inventor is listed below) or joint (if more than one inventor is listed below) inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought.

This declaration is directed to the international application of which it forms a part (if filing declaration with application).

This declaration is directed to international application No. PCT/..... (if furnishing declaration pursuant to Rule 26ter).

I hereby declare that my residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified international application, including the claims of said application. I have identified in the request of said application, in compliance with PCT Rule 4.10, any claim to foreign priority, and I have identified below, under the heading "Prior Applications," by application number, country or Member of the World Trade Organization, day, month and year of filing, any application for a patent or inventor's certificate filed in a country other than the United States of America, including any PCT international application designating at least one country other than the United States of America, having a filing date before that of the application on which foreign priority is claimed.

Prior Applications:

I hereby acknowledge the duty to disclose information that is known by me to be material to patentability as defined by 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Name: Peter Tyler

Residence: United Kingdom

(city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address: 30 Dover Street, Canterbury,

Kent CT1 3HQ, United Kingdom

Citizenship: United Kingdom

Inventor's Signature: *Peter A. Tyler*

(if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date: 13 March 2004

(of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

Name:

Residence:

(city and either US state, if applicable, or country)

Mailing Address:

Citizenship:

Inventor's Signature:

(if not contained in the request, or if declaration is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application. The signature must be that of the inventor, not that of the agent)

Date:

(of signature which is not contained in the request, or of the declaration that is corrected or added under Rule 26ter after the filing of the international application)

☒ This declaration is continued on the following sheet, "Continuation of Box No. VIII (iv)".

Box No. IX CHECK LIST; LANGUAGE OF FILING

<p>This international application contains:</p> <p>(a) in paper form, the following number of sheets:</p> <p>request (including declaration sheets) : 7</p> <p>description (excluding sequence listing and/or tables related thereto) : 66</p> <p>claims : 7</p> <p>abstract : 1</p> <p>drawings : 9</p> <p>Sub-total number of sheets : 90</p> <p>sequence listing : </p> <p>tables related thereto : </p> <p><i>(for both, actual number of sheets if filed in paper form, whether or not also filed in computer readable form; see (c) below)</i></p> <p>Total number of sheets : 90</p> <p>(b) <input type="checkbox"/> only in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(i))</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing</p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto</p> <p>(c) <input type="checkbox"/> also in computer readable form (Section 801(a)(ii))</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing</p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto</p> <p>Type and number of carriers (diskette, CD-ROM, CD-R or other) on which are contained the</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> tables related thereto:</p> <p><i>(additional copies to be indicated under items 9(ii) and/or 10(ii), in right column)</i></p>	<p>This international application is accompanied by the following item(s) <i>(mark the applicable check-boxes below and indicate in right column the number of each item)</i>:</p> <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fee calculation sheet : 1</p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original separate power of attorney : 3</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> original general power of attorney : </p> <p>4. <input type="checkbox"/> copy of general power of attorney; reference number, if any: : </p> <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> statement explaining lack of signature : </p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> priority document(s) identified in Box No. VI as item(s): : </p> <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> translation of international application into (language): : </p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> separate indications concerning deposited microorganism or other biological material : </p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> sequence listing in computer readable form (indicate type and number of carriers)</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter only (and not as part of the international application) : </p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(i) or (c)(i) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Rule 13ter : </p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the sequence listing mentioned in left column : </p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> tables in computer readable form related to sequence listing (indicate type and number of carriers)</p> <p>(i) <input type="checkbox"/> copy submitted for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quater) only (and not as part of the international application) : </p> <p>(ii) <input type="checkbox"/> (only where check-box (b)(ii) or (c)(ii) is marked in left column) additional copies including, where applicable, the copy for the purposes of international search under Section 802(b-quater) : </p> <p>(iii) <input type="checkbox"/> together with relevant statement as to the identity of the copy or copies with the tables mentioned in left column : </p> <p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify): Assignment : 1</p>	<p>Number of items</p>
<p>Figure of the drawings which should accompany the abstract: 2</p>	<p>Language of filing of the international application: English</p>	

Box No. X SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, AGENT OR COMMON REPRESENTATIVE

Next to each signature, indicate the name of the person signing and the capacity in which the person signs (if such capacity is not obvious from reading the request).



Steven L. Christian

For receiving Office use only	
<p>1. Date of actual receipt of the purported international application:</p> <p>3. Corrected date of actual receipt due to later but timely received papers or drawings completing the purported international application:</p> <p>4. Date of timely receipt of the required corrections under PCT Article 11(2):</p> <p>5. International Searching Authority (if two or more are competent): ISA / EPO</p>	<p>2. Drawings:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> received:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> not received:</p> <p>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of search copy delayed until search fee is paid</p>

For International Bureau use only

Date of receipt of the record copy by the International Bureau:

PCT

FEE CALCULATION SHEET

Annex to the Request

For receiving Office use only

International Application No.

Date stamp of the receiving Office

Applicant's or agent's
file reference

14.0248-PCT

Applicant

WesternGeco Seismic Holdings Ltd.

CALCULATION OF PRESCRIBED FEES

1. TRANSMITTAL FEE 300 T

2. SEARCH FEE 1818 S

International search to be carried out by EPO
(If two or more International Searching Authorities are competent to carry out the international search, indicate the name of the Authority which is chosen to carry out the international search.)

3. INTERNATIONAL FILING FEE

Where items (b) and/or (c) of Box No. IX apply, enter **Sub-total number of sheets** } 90
Where items (b) and (c) of Box No. IX do not apply, enter **Total number of sheets** }

i1 first 30 sheets 1035 i1

i2 60 x 11 = 660 i2
number of sheets in excess of 30 fee per sheet

i3 additional component (only if sequence listing and/or tables related thereto are filed in computer readable form under Section 801(a)(i), or both in that form and on paper, under Section 801(a)(ii)):

400 x = i3
fee per sheet

Add amounts entered at i1, i2 and i3 and enter total at I 1695 I

(Applicants from certain States are entitled to a reduction of 75% of the international filing fee. Where the applicant is (or all applicants are) so entitled, the total to be entered at I is 25% of the international filing fee.)

4. FEE FOR PRIORITY DOCUMENT (if applicable) P

5. TOTAL FEES PAYABLE 3813
Add amounts entered at T, S, I and P, and enter total in the TOTAL box

MODE OF PAYMENT

- ☒ authorization to charge deposit account (see below) ☐ postal money order ☐ cash ☐ coupons
☐ cheque ☐ bank draft ☐ revenue stamps ☐ other (specify):

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE (OR CREDIT) DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

(This mode of payment may not be available at all receiving Offices)

- ☒ Authorization to charge the total fees indicated above.
☒ (This check-box may be marked only if the conditions for deposit accounts of the receiving Office so permit) Authorization to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the total fees indicated above.
☐ Authorization to charge the fee for priority document.

Receiving Office: RO/ US

Deposit Account No.: 50/0714/WEST/0028.PCT

Date: March 17, 2004

Name: Steven L. Christian

Signature: Steven Christian